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MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Child Care Providers

FROM: The Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: February 24, 2021

SUBJECT: BinaxNOW COVID -19 Antigen Test Cards

The BinaxNOW COVID-19 Antigen Test Card is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in the detection of COVID-19. The Department of Health and Human Services has been distributing the BinaxNOW Test Cards to Walgreens Pharmacies across the State and to facilities serving high-risk populations and where access to testing has been limited. The demand for the BinaxNOW Cards initially exceeded the State's supply limiting distribution. At this time, the BinaxNOW Cards are available for distribution to a wider range of service providers including licensed Child Care Providers.

The intended use for the BinaxNOW Cards is for asymptomatic employees who have been identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 positive case. The immediate test result helps preserve the workforce, allowing for continuity of care for children, and helps reduce the risk of spread within the child care setting. The Test Cards are not intended to be used for employees or children who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Children and employees should not be at the child care and should be sent home if there is an onset of symptoms during hours of operation with a recommendation to follow up with their medical provider. The Test Cards are also not intended for asymptomatic children who have been in contact with a positive case.

There are several stringent requirements for receiving and using Department supplied BinaxNOW Test Cards. Please thoroughly review the attached guidance to determine if this optional onsite COVID -19 testing is a feasible option for your Child Care. Requirements include in part:

- The Child Care MUST have either a valid CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) Certificate of Waiver, Certificate of Compliance, or Certificate of Accreditation. To obtain a CLIA Certificate of Waiver Child Care providers must complete an application (CLIA Waiver Application Form with \$180 fee).
- The Child Care MUST have a trained employee to administer the testing. This requires completion of the BinaxNOW online training.
- The Child Care MUST immediately report all results to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by enrolling in and using the Maine CDC Point-of-Care Test Reporting System.

Information for Providers Receiving Abbott BinaxNOW Antigen Tests can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/providers.shtml#binax>.

If the optional onsite BinaxNOW COVID-19 testing is not a feasible option for your child care there continue to be options available for your employees and children served including, 65 Walgreen Pharmacy sites across the State, which can be used for both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing and are accessible to all Maine residents.

If after you have read the attached guidance you believe that this is an option in which you would like to pursue, please contact your Child Care Licensing Specialist.